

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /180 W

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R 191440Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9931

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: BRUSSELS 1010

1. BOTH DEDOBBELEER, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND VAY YPERSELE OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY, WHO
WERE IN WASHINGTON AT THE ENERGY CONFERENCE, HAVE EXPRESSED TO US
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ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY IN WHICH THE WASHINGTON MEETING WAS ORGANIZED.

2. DEDOBBELEER SAID THE BREAK WITH THE FRENCH WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN OPERATION OF THE EC DURING THE COMING PERIOD. HOWEVER, NEITHER DEDOBBELEER NOR VAN YPERSELE REGRETTED WHAT HAPPENED SINCE THEY WERE BOTH OF THE OPINION THAT A STANDDOWN OF THIS KIND WAS INEVITABLE WITH THE FRENCH AND IT WAS AS WELL THAT IT HAPPENED THE WAY IT DID.

3. VAN YPERSELE SAID THAT HE HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WHILE IN WASHINGTON SINCE THE FRENCH REFUSED TO ALLOW THE DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL MATTERS. DEDOBBELEER SAID HE DID PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUPS, BUT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT ONE COULD HARDLY GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS WITH A MEETING OF 130 PARTICIPANTS WITH 300 PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE OUTER HALL. HE THOUGHT THAT ONE LESSON OF THE MEETING WAS THE FRUITLESSNESS OF THE EC'S PAPERING OVER ITS DISAGREEMENTS WITH VAGUE MANDATES. INEVITABLE THE MANDATE BROKE DOWN WHEN THE COMMUNITY ACTUALLY ENTERED INTO NEGOTIATIONS. FOR THE SAME REASON, VAN YPERSELE SAID THE RESULTS WERE EXACTLY AS HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, GIVEN THE MANDATE THE EC HAD TO WORK WITH.

4. ALTHOUGH OUR INTERLOCUTORS WERE TROUBLED BY THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BE CAUSED FOR THE COMMUNITY, WE HAVE OBSERVED NO SENSE OF PANIC OR IMPENDING CRISIS AMONG THEM. OUR OFFICIAL INFORMANTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE, AS DID THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (BRUSSELS 1010), GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE NEED TO COOPERATE WITH THE U. S. IN THE ENERGY FIELD. AT THE SAME TIME THEY HAVE REFRAINED FROM WRINGING OF HANDS OR ATTACKS ON THE FRENCH POSITION. THERE IS INSTEAD NEW EVIDENCE OF FIRM INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT RECRIMINATIONS OVER THE PAST AND AT THE SAME TIME PROCEED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL ENERGY CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAVE BEGUN.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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